

Remarks

In the Office Action dated August 11, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent to Green, et al. 5,433,472.

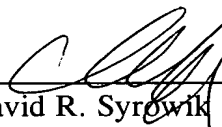
By this Amendment, Applicant's Attorney has amended each of the independent claims to make it clearer that the protection system comprises an air bag normally containable in a deflated condition immediately adjacent the opening of an instrument panel and wherein the air bag has a skin and a portion of that skin completely closes the opening when the air bag is deflated.

Clearly, these features are neither taught, disclosed nor discussed by the U.S. Patent to Green, et al. nor any of the other references of record either alone or in combination. For example, Green, et al. discloses an air bag cushion 44, an inflator 46 and a canister 48 including a mounting flange 58 having a plurality of apertures formed therethrough to mount the module on the passenger side of a passenger vehicle. Green, et al. fails to disclose an instrument panel having an opening wherein the air bag is normally containable in a deflated condition immediately adjacent the opening and a skin of the air bag completely closing the opening when the air bag is deflated.

Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicant's Attorney respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance which allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Darius J. Preisler

By  _____
David R. Syrowik
Reg. No. 27,956
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351